

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 7, 8, 10 – 13, 15 and 16 will be pending.

Claims 1 – 6 have been canceled.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's continued attention and consideration.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

New Figure 4 corrects this oversight by illustrating the elements and structures of Figures 1 – 3 in application as specified in the claims without entering new matter. These elements are enumerated herein below with a cross-reference to the location of that specific element or structure in the original application document.

Figure 4 elements and structures:

Pyromechanical Securing Element (10) Title, paragraph [0017]

Components (17 & 18) Claim 1, paragraphs [0003] and [0004]

Covering (1) Paragraph [0017], Figures 1 - 3

Expandable Head Part (5) Paragraph [0017], Figures 1 – 3

Pyrotechnic Propellant Charge (6) Paragraph [0017], Figures 1 - 3

Adapter (2) Paragraph [0017], Figures 1 – 3

Rear Part of Covering (15) Claim 1

Collar (4) Paragraphs [0003] and [0020]

Concentric Passages Paragraph [0003] + Brede et al.

Break Notches (11) Paragraph [0018], Figures 1 & 2

Adapter Groove (3) Paragraph [0020], Figures 1 – 3

Groove (3) aligned with Collar (4) Paragraph 0007], Figures 1 and 2

Collar (4) pressed into Groove (3) Paragraph [0006], Figure 2

The Applicant submits that the addition of new Figure 4 clearly overcomes the objection to the drawings without entering new matter. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 7 – 16 are objected to due to certain informalities. In particular, different terms are employed in claims 7 and 13 for common elements.

Claim 13 has been amended to identify element 1 as the “covering” and element 2 as the “adapter”, rendering the term usage consistent with that of claim 7.

Dependent claims 8 and 16 have also been amended to provide consistency in term usage.

Claims 9 – 12, 14 and 15 are believed to be objected to by virtue of their dependency upon either independent claim 7 or independent claim 13.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 7 - 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, in claim 1, it is unclear what “means” refers to, line 10 does not appear to be properly descriptive concerning the head part being bent “around” the adapter, and the collar is radially projecting (outwardly) and at the same time pressed into the groove. Claims 8 and 13 are also deemed unclear and confusing.

Independent claims 7 and 13 have been amended to provide the requested clarity, wherein the radially projecting collar defines stop means disposed on a rear part of the covering. New drawing Figure 4 clarifies how the head parts are bent “around” the adapter (refer arrow 19). As best seen in the drawing figures, initially, the collar extends radially outwardly from the outer surface of the covering 1 (Figure 1). After assembly, localized portions of the collar are deformed or “swaged” radially inwardly distending within the annular groove 3 of the adapter/closure member 2 to affix the adapter/closure member 2 within the covering 1 (Figures 2 and 3). As best seen in Figures 3 and 4, after radially deforming the collar 4, portions extend radially inwardly (to engage the adapter 2) and other portions continue to extend radially outwardly forming bevels 8 defining axial stops.

Dependent claim 8 has also been amended to clearly define the geometric configurations of the groove and collar. Lastly, dependent claim 13 has been amended to delete the “swage-like” terminology.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, dependent claims 7 - 16 are deemed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 9, 10 and 14 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable dependent claim 9 (there are no intervening claims) and independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable dependent claim 14 (there are no intervening claims). Allowable dependent claim 10 has been amended to depend directly from (now) allowable independent claim 7.

Furthermore, independent claims 7 and 13 have been amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as set forth hereinabove.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, independent claims 7 and 13, as well as dependent claim 10 are deemed to be in allowable form.

Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by **Brede et al.** (U.S. 2006/0110233 A1).

Independent claims 7 and 13 have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the art of record and to place them in allowable form. Claims 8, 11, 12 and 15 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the allowable independent claims and are, thus, themselves, deemed allowable.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 7, 8, 11 - 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Allen** (U.S. 1,400,401) in view of **Miller** (DE 971,711).

Independent claims 7 and 13 have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the art of record and to place them in allowable form. Claims 8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the allowable independent claims and are, thus, themselves, deemed allowable.

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In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims set forth in the previous Office Action have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims in their present form are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Gordon Lewis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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